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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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1. The Marx-Lenin evening institutes (Vecherniy universitet marksizma-leninizma) were established throughout the USSR after World War II with the purpose of providing for the advanced political education of Soviet citizens and ultimately of creating a cadre of free-lance political propagandists. In Moscow alone several such institutes were organized; one was for the employees of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and GUSIMZ. Most probably Marx-Lenin institutes were also organized at other governmental organizations, large factories, plants, and other industrial and economic institutions all over the USSR.
2. Originally the institutes were planned to include only a two-year curriculum, but in 1952 this was extended to three years. Enrollment was on a "voluntary" basis. It should be borne in mind, however, that some kind of constant political education was compulsory for every Soviet citizen regardless of his position. The study of CP history and the writings of Marx, Lenin, and Stalin was performed in groups or classes in every office and installation. The Komsomol and Party organizations kept constant watch on the attendance and did not permit the students to become lax in their political education. The motto was that everybody had "to grow" (rastì) in the political sense, and those who had a tendency to stop "growing", i.e. to attend the same classes for several years and not pass to higher study groups, were usually subjected to criticism at Komsomol and Party meetings. These were the conditions under which people "volunteered" to enroll in the Marx-Lenin evening institutes. But, to be fair, one should recognize that among Soviet government employees attendance at these institutes was considered good manners and something which a self-respecting government employee should desire without any outside pressure.
3. Shortly after World War II, the Marx-Lenin evening institutes were organized in occupied Germany, in Berlin and Leipzig, and in Vienna, Austria.

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4. The Marx-Lenin Evening Institute in Berlin was located on Treskow Allee, opposite Karlshorst. The institute operated under the auspices of the political administration of SOFG (Vecherniy universitet marksizma-leninizma pri politupravlenii shtaba sovetskoy voyennoy administratsii Germanii - SVAG). The courses were conducted through a nine-month period, from August to June, and the following subjects were taught in the first course:

- a. History of the CP, based on the original works of Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Stalin (izucheniye pervoistochnikov).
- b. History of the USSR
- c. War History and Military Science

Annual examinations were conducted on subjects a. and b. An examination was not given on subject c, but a brief question session (zachet) was introduced in order to determine whether the student had sufficiently understood the material.

5. Lectures were held two times each week for a four-hour period, partly during office hours, from 1700 to 2100. No more than two subjects were taught in one day. In 1950-1951 there were about 150 students at the Berlin Evening Institute, all Soviet citizens, males and females. The percentage of males to females was approximately 75% to 25%. About 50% of all students were army personnel. The lecturers were Soviet military personnel belonging to the corps of army political officers. As a rule the ability and background of the lecturers was poor and their teaching was limited to reading some chapters in the works of Marx, Lenin, or Stalin. Attendance at the lectures in Berlin was compulsory, but since strict control was not exercised, absenteeism was high.

6. The Marx-Lenin Evening Institute in Vienna was located at Hofburg, in the building of the Vienna Soviet Army Officers Club. Approximately 80 students attended the second year course, half of this number being army officers. There were approximately 20 female students. The subjects taught in this second course were:

- a. Dialectical and Historical Materialism
- b. Political Economy of Capitalist and Socialist Societies.
- c. History of Diplomacy.

An annual examination was conducted on subjects a. and b. In Vienna, lectures were given two times each week from 1600-2000 hours. Strict control was exercised over the attendance. Absenteeism was reported to the responsible superiors, who took disciplinary action, including court martial.

7. In Berlin, as well as in Vienna, compulsory tuition was required for the attendance at the Marx-Lenin Evening Institute. This tuition was set at 200 rubles annually paid in local currency. In Berlin, the students had to pay 400 East Marks which could be paid in rubles drawn from the student's home account. In Vienna, however, payment had to be made in schillings, which amounted to 400 schillings instead of 200 rubles, converted at the "salary rate of exchange" (zarplatnyy kurs) of two schillings to one ruble. (The salary rate of exchange disregarded the official rate of exchange of 6.5 schillings to 1 ruble.)

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8. After completion of the full course at the Marx-Lenin Evening Institute, graduates were given certificates. There were no benefits of any kind granted to a government employee after completion of this course except that this certificate was placed in the individual's official record and thus increased his educational qualifications.

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